

REMARKS

Claims 1-18, 20-21, and 23-34 are now pending. Claims 19 and 22 have been cancelled. In the Office Action mailed December 17, 2004, claims 23-28, 35 and 36 are allowed. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 112 second paragraph and claims 1-18, 20, 21, and 29-34 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Jones (US Patent 6,563,340). Claim 20 was objected to under 37 CFR 1.759 (c). Claims 19 and 22 were objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants traverse the Office Action's rejections and objections.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify IC as an Integrated Circuit. Claim 20 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Independent claims 1, 8, and 29 have been amended to overcome the rejection based on Jones and should now be allowable. Jones discloses in Fig. 6 (col. 5, lines 8-45) two CPLDs 104C and 106C whose clusters (CL) are connected via signal lines 152B. At col. 5, lines 37-43, A signal in a CL on CPLD 104C is routed through channel 152B to an I/O bank 154 on CPLD 104C. The I/O bank 154 on CPLD 104C presents the signal to I/O bank 154 on CPLD 106C, which then send the signal to a CL on CPLD 106C. Thus in Jones inter-chip communication is done via I/O banks on each chip.

Claim 1 has, among other features, a circuit in the first region connected to a circuit in the second region without use of any Input/Output (I/O) bank on the first IC. Thus while Jones requires an I/O bank on the first IC to communicate with a second IC, claim 1 does not and hence should be allowable.

Claims 2-7 being dependent upon claim 1 should be allowable for at least the reason claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 8 has, among other features, a tile in the first column directly connected to a tile in the second column via one of the plurality of signal lines and without using any Input/Output (I/O) bank on the first die. Thus claim 8 should be allowable for at least the reason claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 9-16 being dependent upon claim 1 should be allowable for at least the reason claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 17 has been amended to add the limitation of claim 19 and should now be allowable.

Claims 18 and 20 being dependent upon claim 17 should be allowable for at least the reason claim 17 is allowable.

Claim 21 has been amended to add the limitation of claim 22 and should now be allowable.

Claim 29 has, among other features, a first die of the plurality of dice, comprising all input/output blocks on the first die for communicating with circuits located outside of the first die, and a signal line connecting the first interconnect line to the second interconnect line, wherein a signal propagates from the first interconnect line to the second interconnect line without propagating through any of the input/output blocks of the first die. Thus, unlike Jones, the inter-die communication of the signal for claim 29 occurs without use of an I/O block as part of an I/O bank on the first die and claim 29 should be allowable.

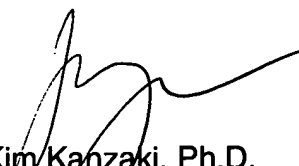
Claims 30-34 being dependent upon claim 29 should be allowable for at least the reason claim 29 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

All claims should be now be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions, the applicants' attorney can be reached at Tel: 408-879-6149 (Pacific Standard Time).

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on March 1, 2005.

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